



PATTY PACKS HER BAG.



PATTY'S TRAVELLING BAG.

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PATRICIA Lee is a little girl, not quite five years old, who lives in Boston. She is an only daughter, and has four grown-up brothers, who were all very happy when she was born, because they had always wished for a sister.

They had a great deal of trouble in naming her, and I think you could scarcely guess why she had so unusual a name as Patricia is for a little Boston girl, and the reason is a real boy's reason.

The truth is Patricia was born on the Seventeenth of March, St. Patrick's Day, and as he appears to be a saint who smiles upon all kinds of jollity and "likes a good time," the boys changed his name enough to make it suit a girl, and the baby was solemnly christened Patricia, which soon became Patty, for short.

Not long ago Patty Lee's mamma was to have a large party, and Patty said, with a wise look :

"There will be too much excitement in the house for Patty, and she wants to go to Aunt Mary's to stay all night, and sleep in the room next cousin Alice."

Patty's family thought this a very good idea, and it was decided that she should go. Patty had never spent the night away from home, but she loved her aunt Mary so much and was so fond of her cousins, Alice and Belle, that it seemed quite natural that she should wish to pass the night with them.

When the day of the party arrived, Patty asked her

mamma, after luncheon, if she could pack her valise, all her own self, and have just what she wished to carry to her aunts'. Mrs. Lee thought it would be just the sort of thing that would make the little girl quiet and happy, so she gave her leave to go to the trunk-room with her nurse, Maggie, and choose the valise that pleased her best.

After much thought Patty decided upon a large travelling bag which belonged to her eldest brother. It was embroidered in wools and had a spirited looking horse's head on one side, and Patty seemed to think that this horse could carry the bag!

When Maggie had carried the bag to Patty's room, she began to pack it, talking all the time thus :

"Now, course I can't go a journey all alone, and I shall take Doll Jenny, 'cause she's been sick and lost all her hair—but I'll carry her wig, too, and p'raps I'll ask aunt Mary to glue it on, and play the journey made her all well, and her hair all grewed out. Oh, dear, how sick dolls do look disagreeable with no hair!" Then into the bag went Jenny, head first, and the wig followed. "Now, Maggie," she began again, "course I must take some cologne, and I shall seal my tooth-picks in an envelope—and I shall take Dolly Marguerite, cause she is so good, and Beauty 'cause—'cause I want to." Then Patty grew so busy with her hands that she gave her

tongue a little rest as she flew about the room, opening closets and drawers, and packing stockings and slippers, handkerchiefs and collars enough for a real journey. She added her purse and her frog bank, and told the frog, as she dropped him into the bag, not to eat Beauty's ear-rings. Then she reflected a moment before going to her work drawer, where she selected some threads of gay wool, some canvas and her thimble. Next she occupied herself with her library, which is large for a child like Patty, and decided upon three or four books that she said "would 'muse me in the morning."

Thus she continued until the bag was full to overflowing, when she rushed to her mamma and said:

"Do you suppose Aunt Mary will lend me a pencil? I have packed some note paper and envelopes."

When the brothers heard this they shouted, and when they saw the bag they told her that she never could get on over night in the world with so few things, and that she "ought to carry a rocking-chair, and a hot-water bottle, and a thermometer, and be able to make herself comfortable." But Patty only laughed and said, "My boys are so joky."

Mrs. Lee soberly assisted Patty to put on her cloak and bonnet, and kissed her good-by, while Maggie took the heavy bag, and went with Patty to Aunt Mary's house, which was but three doors away.

Every one at Mrs. Lee's was so busy in preparing for the party, that no more was thought of Patty. At seven o'clock, when Mrs. Lee was arranging flowers, and hurrying through the last preparations for the evening, Patty's uncle Richard appeared, and announced that Patty wished to come home.

He related how she had gone to her room after Maggie left her, and unpacked her bag, put her various belongings in such places as pleased her best, and laid Doll Jenny in the bed to wait until she should go herself to sleep with her.

She then went to dinner, and everything was as merry as a little girl's first visit should be, when suddenly Patty spoke:

"I must go home; I want to tell my mamma something that I forgot."

Aunt Mary answered, "Wait till after dinner, Patty," hoping she would forget what she had just said.

But soon Patty's cheeks grew very red, and her eyes filled with tears, and she began to sob:

"I must tell mamma; I must tell her something that I forgot."

Mrs. Lee immediately sent Maggie to bring Patty home. When the child came she seemed to fear that she should not be welcome, and hung her head down and looked out of the corners of her eyes in a bashful, appealing little way. But her papa and mamma and all her brothers comforted her; they gave her some flowers, and told her it was not at all naughty for her to come home. The truth was they were all very glad that she did not wish to stay away.

Soon Patty was in bed and fast asleep. She had sobbed and cried herself so weary that no excitement could keep her awake now, but before she shut her eyes, she whispered to her mamma:

"I guess Jenny won't wake up nor cry, nor trouble Aunt Mary, and if she wants anything I guess she can find it, 'cause everything is there!"

This visit of Patty's, and all her grand preparations seemed a great joke to her brothers; they laughed much over it, but they said nothing to her, because they wished to see what she would do next.

In the morning Patty was rather sober, and confided to her youngest brother that she did not like journeys at all. In the afternoon she asked permission to go to her aunt Mary's to repack her bag. Maggie went with her, and it took a long time for the little lady to arrange everything to be taken home, and when she got there at last, she declared herself too tired to put her things in order that day. But she began to feel that her labor had not been in vain; for when she took Jenny out of the bed, her hair was all fast to her head, and the dear doll looked as good as new. Patty was so impressed by this that a few days after she told a bald-headed old gentleman who called on her papa, that if he would "go on a journey and sleep one night, his head would have blonde curls with a blue ribbon on them!"

On the day after her bag was brought home, Patty was busier than ever, for we all know that it is more trouble to put our things in order when we return from a journey than it is to pack them to go away.

So Patty was occupied three days in going away to pass the night, and did not do it after all. It is very droll to hear Patty say, as she often does, something about "that night when I stayed at Aunt Mary's."

Then her brothers say, "But, Patty, you didn't stay."

"Well, that is no matter," she answers. "I packed my bag, and I took all my things, and I left them there—and I *allowed* Jenny to stay, an' that is a pretty good journey. I guess."